

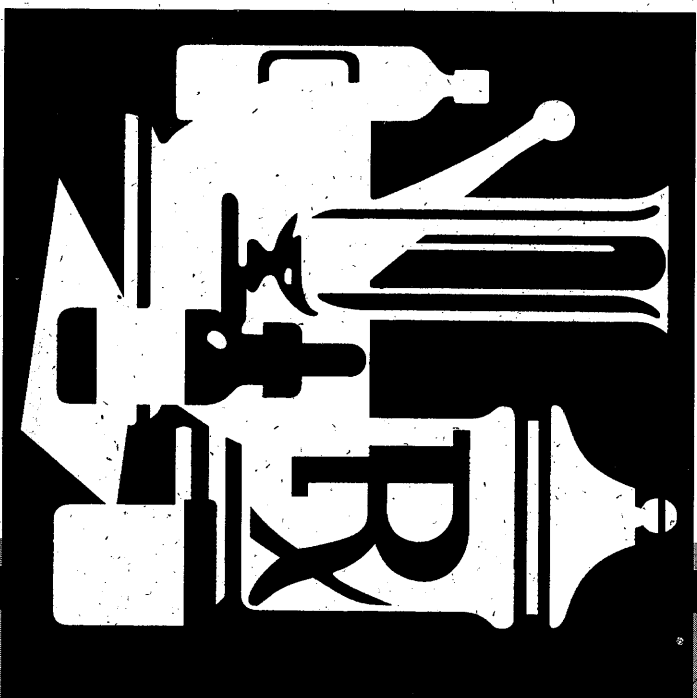
Finally, the homeowner should periodically check the medicine cabinet for medicines that have expired or will not be used again. These medicines, if solid (such as pills, capsules, powders, etc.) should be placed in the garbage in their original containers, while liquid medicines should be poured down the drain. Empty medicine containers should be placed in the trash or recycled if accepted at your local recycling center. As always, keep medicines out of reach of young children and away from pets.

For information on handling and disposal of home medical waste, contact:

ADEM

Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
Land Division - Solid Waste Branch
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF HOME MEDICAL WASTE



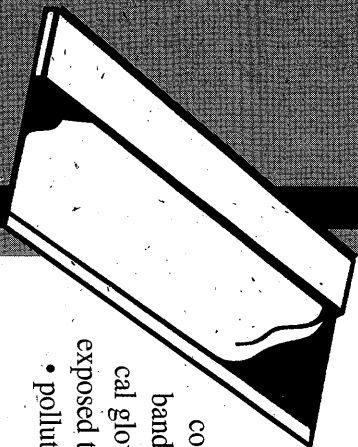
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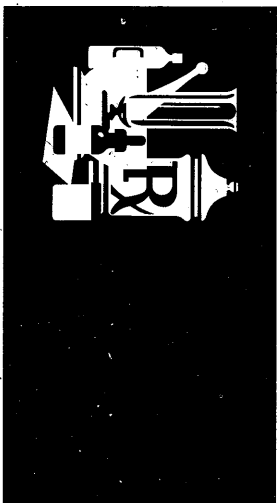
A HOUSEHOLD
GUIDE FOR
ALABAMIANS

Every year, Alabamians use millions of sharp objects in their homes to administer health care. These "sharps" include lancets, needles and syringes. If they are not handled properly and disposed of in a puncture-resistant container, they can:

- injure other family members, neighbors, and/or garbage handlers;
- increase the risk of infection if they come in contact with materials such as bandages, dressings and surgical gloves which have been exposed to infectious agents; and
- pollute the environment.

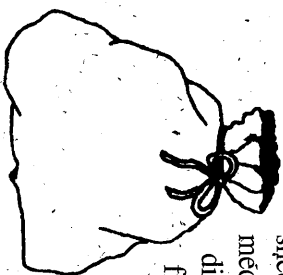


You can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when you handle and dispose of the sharp objects, contaminated materials and expired medicines you use administering health care in your home.



You should place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in a hard plastic container — such as a liquid soap, bleach or fabric-softener bottle, etc. — or metal container with a screw-on (or tightly secured) lid. You should reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape. Do not put sharp objects in any container that will be recycled or returned to a store. You may want to mark the container "Not For Recycling". Do not use glass or clear-plastic containers. Make sure that you keep containers used to dispose of sharp objects out of the reach of young children and away from pets. These containers should be disposed of as frequently as other garbage.

It is also recommended that bloody bandages, and dressings, disposable sheets and clothing, medical gloves and dialysis machine filters be placed in a securely fastened plastic bag before they are combined with other household garbage. Remember: Do not label the bag or sharps container "medical waste" or "infectious waste" as these items only apply to health care professionals.



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